Efforts to promote South Asia as a tourist destination

608. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the suggestion made at the recently concluded SAARC Summit at Kathmandu for undertaking joint marketing efforts to promote South Asia as a tourist destination; and

(b) if so, the details of the framework/steps proposed to be initiated for the purpose especially those relating the upgradation of infrastructure air linkage, simplifying harmonisation of administrative procedures etc.?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sri Lanka will very shortly be hosting a meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Culture. The Ministers are expected to discuss the issue further and make concrete recommendations on how to implement its proposal.

Construction of Hotels in Rajasthan

609. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to improve tourism to attract the foreign tourists in the rich heritage State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plans to set up some hotels in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) State level plans to improve tourism are prepared by State Governments. Department of Tourism, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them.

(b) Twenty two projects with Central financial component of Rs. 455.00 lakhs were sanctioned in Rajasthan during the last financial year.

(c) Department of Tourism has no plans to set up new hotels in the country including Rajasthan.

(d) Does not arise.